

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:617
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
INDO RUSSIAN MEET ON TRADE
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indo-Russian meet on trade was held in Moscow during January, 2001;
- (b) if so, the subjects discussed at the meeting;
- (c) whether India has asked Russia to buy a large quantity of tea, tobacco, rice and wheat against the rupee-fund;
- (d) if so, the response of Russian Government thereto; and
- (e) the overall outcome of the meeting?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) : Yes sir. The Seventh Session of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation under the aegis of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic , Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation was held at Moscow in January, 2001 wherein various issues concerning bilateral trade including review of implementation of the decisions of the earlier meeting, current status of trade and economic cooperation and steps for further development, as well as issues relating to cooperation in Transport, Banking and Financial and Agricultural sectors, etc. were discussed.

(c) to (e) : The issue of export of tea, tobacco, rice and wheat were discussed during the meeting, wherein it was agreed that that all possible steps need to be taken to meet the target of exporting 100 million kg of tea during 2001, for which purchases would be made on a regular commercial basis throughout the year. Further, it was decided that Association Tabacprom of Russian Federation and Tobacco Board of India need to have closer interaction for discussing measures needed to boost tobacco exports. Regarding export of rice and wheat, it was decided that the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation will identify and convey to the Indian side a list of commercial organisations interested in importing wheat and rice for holding further discussions with Indian commercial organisations in regard to quantities and price etc. The overall outcome of the meeting was positive, and the Sides also agreed that there was a necessity for further diversification of the basket of trade and for increasing the trade in hard currency. In this regard, it was also noted that there was considerable potential for increasing bilateral trade in software, `white goods`, granite, medical equipment, machine tools, equipment for power, metallurgical projects, civil aircraft, mining equipment, leather and leather items, marine products, etc.